GOI = Government of India

ECB = External Commercial Borrowings

PFC = Power Finance Corporation

LIC = Life Insurance Corporation of India

DFA = Direct Foreign Assistance

Air Crashes involving Army Helicopters

*50 DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many army helicopters have crashed during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, till date;

(b) what is the nature of losses in terms of men and money; and

(c) whether Government have taken adequate precautionary measures to prevent such disasters in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Two army helicopters have crashed during 1998-99 and thereafter three army helicopters have crashed upto 30th June, 2000.

(b) Two pilots have died in these accidents. The financial loss suffered in these accidents is Rs. 1.24 crores approximately.

(c) Adequate precautionary measures have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents in future, based on the recommendations of the Courts of Inquiry that were ordered to investigate the cause of accidents.

Dues to NTPC

†*51. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (N.T.P.C.), which is an international level thermal power generating company, has to struggle hard in order to recover its outstanding amount from various State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the States which are included in the debtors list of N.T.P.C. together with the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether Government are going to take any steps for recovery of dues; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM):(a) and (b) NTPC is facing problems in realising its dues from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) apparently because of the poor financial health of SEBs. The total outstanding dues as on 30th June, 2000 work out to Rs. 14744 crores including surcharge of Rs. 5371 crores.

(c) The State-wise details of outstanding dues payable to NTPC as on 30.6.2000 are given in the statement annexure. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) the NTPC as well as the Central Government are taking various steps for recovery of outstanding dues of NTPC as indicated below:-

(i) The NTPC management is actively pursuing recovery of dues with the concerned SEBs/State Governments.

(ii) A Special Incentive Scheme has been introduced by NTPC since September, 1994 to provide financial incentive to States which establish Letter of Credits (LC) to cover full amount of current monthly bills. By enhancing their LC to the required level, SEBs would be in a position to avail 2.5% rebate on payments made in four equated weekly instalments and also obtain reimbursement of charges incurred for LC operation.

(ii) The NTPC at times also resorts to regulation of power to the defaulting States after giving the necessary notices as per law.

(iv) In case of new projects, the NTPC is taking care to include payments safeguards in the power purchase Agreements signed for its new projects. These include back up through State Government guarantee, tripartite agreement between NTPC, concerned State Government and RBI for direct payment out of the States, RBI account in case of default in payments and LCs for full payment for energy bills.

(v) The position is also reviewed periodically by the Ministry of Power and the matter is taken up at the level of Chief Secretary/Chief Minister.

(vi) There is also a dispensation under which dues as on 31.12.1996 are being recovered directly by Ministry of Finance through Central appropriation and paid directly to NTPC. The amount of Central Appropriation received during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in respect of the above dues was Rs. 270.76 crores, Rs. 376.61 crores and Rs. 496.17 crores respectively.

(vii) Government has recently approved a scheme of securitisation of the dues of SEBs to Central PSUs of Ministry of Power and Department of Coal. The scheme envisages issue of bonds by the concerned SEBs to the CPSUs to cover the principal amount outstanding.The bonds are to be backed by a State Government guarantee and provision in the budget of the State Government for repayments of principal and interest. As an added safeguard, 15% of Central Plan Assistance of the concerned State would also be available in case of a default. Response of the State Government is awaited.

Statement

NTPC outstanding dues as on 30.6.2000

(Rs. in Lacs)

Super Thermal Power Station/ State Electricity Boards	Outstanding as on date	Surcharge Billed	Total Outstanding
Bihar	166426	99877	266303
Delhi Vidhyut Board	134981	121449	256430
Uttar Pradesh PCL	187089	63752	250841
West Bengal SEB	89083	42297	131380
MPEB	54652	28110	82762
Orissa	60122	18331	78453
Damodar Valley Corporation	29480	28827	58307
Maharashtra SEB	36194	17919	54113
Jammu and Kashmir	20402	32314	52716
Gujarat Electricity Board	27187	18059	45246
Rajasthan SEB	31937	7563	39500
Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	25452	9172	34624
Haryana	9380	25244	34624
APTRANSCO	20259	7429	27688
KPTCL	17093	6938	24031
KERALA SEB	15529	4426	19955

Super Thermal Power Station/ State Electricity Board	Outstanding as on date	Surcharge Billed	Total Outstanding
Punjab SEB	2968	1277	4225
Assam SEB	2838	1121	3959
Sikkim	2299	838	3137
Pondicherry	2264	796	3060
Himachal Pradesh SEB	1527	925	2452
Goa (Western Region)	16	220	236
Goa (Southern Region)	95	117	212
Daman and Diu	0	119	119
Union Territory of Chandigarh	5	0	5
TOTAL	937278	537120	1474398

ABBREVIATIONS:

SEBS : STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS.

KPTCL : KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED.

APTRANSCO : ANDHRA PRADESH TRANS COMPANY.

MPEB : MADHYA PRADESH ELECRICITY BOARD.

UPPCL : UTTAR PRADESH POWER CORPORATION LIMITED.

Attack on Minorities

*52. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been sudden spurt of attacks and violence on minorities and their place of worship in various parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last twelve months;

(c) whether Government have obtained reports from the concerned State Governments, and if so, details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure safety and security of the minorities and their institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, there is no overall increase in the incidents of violence involving the minorities and their institutions in the country during the last few years. However, incidents of violence involving